CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the

2   steps of:

3   authenticating and authorizing a client;

4   sending an authorization accept message that includes an accounting record; and

5   causing the accounting record to be logged.

1   2.   A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the

2   accounting record for the client from an external resource.

1   3.   A method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising the step of obtaining the

2   accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.

1   4.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the client is selected from the group

2   consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.

1   5.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

1   6.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and

3   accounting server.

1   7.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   causing the accounting record to be logged on a network device.

1   8.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   logging the accounting record with a session start log entry.

1   9.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   logging the accounting record with a session stop log entry.

1   10.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to

2   a second accounting record.

1   11.   A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

2   retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting

3   record; and

4   causing the second accounting record to be logged.

1   12.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises data in a

2   plurality of attribute-value pairs.

1   13.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of sending is performed in a

2   protocol selected from the group consisting of Remote Authentication Dial In User Service,

3   Terminal Access Controller Access Control System, Diameter, and Security Assertion

4   Markup Language.

1   14.   A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a particular data set is used in the step of

2   authenticating and authorizing and the accounting record comprises said particular data set.

1   15.   A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the

2   steps of:

3   sending an authorization request;

4   receiving an accounting record with an authorization accept message; and

50325-0809 (Seq. No. 7543)

5   causing the accounting record to be logged.

1   16.   A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

1   17.   A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises

2   causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and

3   accounting server.

1   18.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 1.

1   19.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 2.

1   20.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 3.

1   21.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 4.

1   22.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 5.

50325-0809 (Seq. No. 7543)

1   23.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 6.

1   24.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 7.

1   25.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 8.

1   26.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 9.

1   27.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 10.

1   28.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 11.

1   29.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the

3   method recited in Claim 12.

50325-0809 (Seq. No. 7543)

1   30.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3   method recited in Claim 13.

1   31.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3   method recited in Claim 14.

1   32.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3   method recited in Claim 15.

1   33.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3   method recited in Claim 16.

1   34.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the
3   method recited in Claim 17.

50325-0809 (Seq. No. 7543)